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Agnes Moorehead

Agnes Robertson Moorehead (December 6, 1900 – April 30, 1974) was an American actress. In a career spanning five decades, her credits included work in radio, stage, film, and television.[1] Moorehead was the recipient of such accolades as a Primetime Emmy Award and two Golden Globe Awards, in addition to nominations for four Academy Awards.

Moorehead had joined Orson Welles' Mercury Players, as one of his principal performers in 1937. She also had notable roles in films such as *Citizen Kane* (1941), *Dark Passage* (1947), *Show Boat* (1951), and *All That Heaven Allows* (1955). Moorehead garnered four nominations for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, for her performances in: *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942), *Mrs. Parkington* (1944), *Johnny Belinda* (1948), and *Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte* (1964). She is also known for the radioplay *Sorry, Wrong Number* (1943).

She gained acclaim for her role as Endora on the ABC sitcom *Bewitched* which she played from 1964 to 1972. Her performance earned her six Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series nominations. For her role on the western series *The Wild Wild West* she won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series.

Agnes Moorehead

20th Century Fox publicity photograph, c. 1964

Born	Agnes Robertson Moorehead December 6, 1900 Clinton, Massachusetts, U.S.
Died	April 30, 1974 (aged 73) Rochester, Minnesota, U.S.
Resting place	Dayton Memorial Park, Dayton, Ohio, U.S.
Occupation	Actress
Years active	1933–1974
Spouses	John Griffith Lee (m. 1930; div. 1952) Robert Gist (m. 1954; div. 1958)

Early life

Agnes Robertson Moorehead was born on December 6, 1900,[2] in Clinton, Massachusetts, the daughter of former singer Mary (*née* McCauley), who was 17 when she was born, and Presbyterian clergyman John Henderson Moorehead. She was of English, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh ancestry. Moorehead later claimed that she was born in 1906 to appear younger for acting parts. She recalled that she made her first public performance at the age of three, when she recited the Lord's Prayer in her father's church. The family moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and her ambition to become an actress grew "very strong". Her mother indulged her active imagination, often asking, "Who are you today, Agnes?" while Moorehead and her younger sister Peggy (born Margaret Ann) engaged in mimicry. This involved coming to the dinner table and imitating their father's parishioners; they were further encouraged by his amused reactions.[3]

As a young woman, Moorehead joined the chorus of the St. Louis Municipal Opera Company, known as "The Muny". In addition to her interest in acting, she developed a lifelong interest in religion; in later years, actors such as Dick Sargent recalled Moorehead's arriving on the set with "the Bible in one hand and the script in the other".[3]

Moorehead earned a bachelor's degree in 1923, majoring in biology at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio. While there, she also appeared in college stage plays. She received an honorary doctorate in literature from Muskingum in 1947,[4] and served for a year on its board of trustees.[5] When her family moved to Reedsburg, Wisconsin,[6] she taught public school for five years in Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, while she also earned a master's degree in English and public speaking at the University of Wisconsin (now the University of Wisconsin–Madison). She then pursued postgraduate studies at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, from which she graduated with honors in 1929. Moorehead also received an honorary doctoral degree from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois.[7]

Career

Moorehead's early acting career was unsteady, and although she was able to find stage work, she was often unemployed. She later recalled going four days without food, and said that it had taught her "the value of a dollar". She found work in radio and was soon in demand, often working on several programs in a single day. She believed that it offered her excellent training and allowed her to develop her voice to create a variety of characterizations. Moorehead met actress Helen Hayes, who encouraged her to enter films, but her first attempts were met with failure. When she was rejected as not being "the right type", Moorehead returned to radio.

Mercury Theatre

By 1937, Moorehead had joined Orson Welles' Mercury Players, as one of his principal performers along with Joseph Cotten. (In an appearance on *The Dick Cavett Show* on February 19, 1973, she revealed that, in 1922, she had by chance met Welles (15 years her junior) when he was a mere seven years old at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.)[8] She performed in his *The Mercury Theatre on the Air* radio adaptations, and had a regular role opposite Welles in the serial *The Shadow* as Margo Lane. In 1939, Welles moved the Mercury Theatre to Hollywood, where he started working for RKO Pictures. Several of his radio performers joined him, and Moorehead made her film debut as the mother of his own character, Charles Foster Kane, in *Citizen Kane* (1941), considered by most film critics as one of the best films ever made. Moorehead was featured in Welles' second film, *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942), and received the New York Film Critics Award and an Academy Award nomination for her performance. She also appeared in *Journey Into Fear* (1943), a Mercury film production.

Moorehead received positive reviews for her performance in *Mrs. Parkington* (1944), and the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress and an Academy Award nomination. Moorehead played another strong role in *The Big Street* (1942) with Henry Fonda and Lucille Ball, and then appeared in two films that failed to find an audience, *Government Girl* (1943) with Olivia de Havilland and *The Youngest Profession* (1944) with adolescent Virginia Weidler.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

By the mid-1940s, Moorehead became a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer contract player, negotiating a $6,000-a-week contract, which also allowed her to perform on radio, an unusual clause at the time. Moorehead explained that MGM usually refused to allow their actors to appear on radio, as "the actors didn't have the

knowledge or the taste or the judgment to appear on the right sort of show."[9] In 1943–1944, Moorehead portrayed "matronly housekeeper Mrs. Mullet", who was constantly offering her "candied opinion", in the Mutual Broadcasting System's *The Adventures of Leonidas Witherall*; she inaugurated the role on CBS Radio.[10]

Throughout her career, Moorehead skillfully portrayed puritanical matrons, neurotic spinsters, possessive mothers, and comical secretaries. She had supporting roles in *The Youngest Profession* (1943), *Since You Went Away* (1944), and the crime drama *Dark Passage* (1947), starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. She then played Aggie McDonald in the 1948 film, *Johnny Belinda*. She played Parthy Hawks, wife of Cap'n Andy and mother of Magnolia, in MGM's hit 1951 remake of *Show Boat*. Moorehead was in Broadway productions of *Don Juan in Hell* in 1951–1952, and *Lord Pengo* in 1962–1963.

Moorehead in the trailer for *Citizen Kane* (1940)

Harry Shannon, George Coulouris and Agnes Moorehead in *Citizen Kane* (1941)

Richard Bennett, Joseph Cotten, Dolores Costello, Don Dillaway, Agnes Moorehead, and Ray Collins in *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942)

Radio

In her first radio role, Moorehead appeared as a replacement for Dorothy Denvir's role as Min Gump in *The Gumps*. During the 1940s and 1950s, Moorehead was one of the most in-demand actresses for radio dramas, especially on the CBS show *Suspense*. During the 946-episode run of *Suspense*, Moorehead was cast in more episodes than any other actor or actress. She was often introduced on the show as the "first lady of *Suspense*". Moorehead's most successful appearance on *Suspense* was in the play *Sorry, Wrong Number*, written by Lucille Fletcher, broadcast on May 18, 1943. Moorehead played a selfish, neurotic woman who overhears a murder being plotted via crossed phone wires and eventually realizes she is the intended victim. She recreated the performance six times for *Suspense* and several times on other radio shows, always using her original, dog-eared script. The May 25, 1943 airing was made part of the National Sound Registry by the Library of Congress in 2014. In 1952, she recorded an album of the drama, and performed scenes from the story in her one-woman show in the 1950s. Barbara Stanwyck played the role in the 1948 film version.

In 1941, Moorehead played Maggie in the short-lived *Bringing Up Father* program on the Blue Network. From 1942 to 1949, Moorehead played the role of the mayor's housekeeper in the radio version of *Mayor of the Town*. She also starred in *The Amazing Mrs. Danberry*, a situation comedy on CBS in 1946. Moorehead's title character was described as "the lively widow of a department store owner who has a tongue as sharp as a hatpin and a heart as warm as summer."[11] Moorehead played one of her last roles on January 6, 1974, as Mrs. Ada Canby in the ironically titled "The Old Ones Are Hard to Kill", the inaugural episode of CBS Radio Mystery Theater.[12]

Films of the 1950s–1960s

In the 1950s, Moorehead continued to work in films and appeared on stage across the country. Her stage roles included a national tour of Shaw's *Don Juan in Hell*, co-starring Charles Boyer, Charles Laughton, and Cedric Hardwicke, and the pre-Broadway engagements of the new musical *The Pink Jungle*. She had a supporting role in the big-budget Howard Hughes film *The Conqueror* (1956), starring John Wayne and Susan Hayward, a film she later regretted appearing in. She starred in *The Bat* (1959) with Vincent Price. She appeared as the hypochondriac Mrs. Snow in Disney's hit film *Pollyanna* (1960). She starred with Bette Davis, Olivia de Havilland, Mary Astor, and Joseph Cotten in *Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte* (1964) as the maid Velma, a role for which she was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award.

Moorehead in *The Bat* (1959)

Television

In 1959, Moorehead guest-starred on many series, including *The Rebel* and *Alcoa Theatre*. Her role in the radio play *Sorry, Wrong Number* inspired writers of the CBS television series *The Twilight Zone* to script an episode with Moorehead in mind.[13] In "The Invaders" (broadcast January 27, 1961), Moorehead played a woman whose isolated farm is plagued by mysterious intruders. Moorehead found the script odd, because it had only one line of dialogue, at the very end. Her character gasped in terror once or twice, but never spoke. In *Sorry, Wrong Number*, Moorehead offered a famed, bravura performance using only her voice.

Moorehead also had guest roles on *Channing*, *Custer*, *Rawhide* in "Incident at Poco Tiempo" as Sister Frances, and *The Rifleman*. On February 10, 1967, she portrayed Miss Emma Valentine in "The Night of the Vicious Valentine" on *The Wild Wild West*, a performance for which she won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series.

Bewitched

In 1964, Moorehead accepted the role of Endora, Samantha's (Elizabeth Montgomery) mortal-loathing, quick-witted witch mother in the situation comedy *Bewitched*. She later commented that she had not expected it to succeed and that she ultimately felt trapped by its success, but she had negotiated to appear in only eight of every 12 episodes made, thus allowing her sufficient time to pursue other projects. She also felt that the television writing was often below standard and dismissed many of the *Bewitched* scripts as "hack" in a 1965 interview for *TV Guide*.[14] The role brought her a level of recognition that she had not received before as *Bewitched* was in the top-10 programs for the first few years it aired.

Moorehead with *Bewitched* castmates Dick York and Elizabeth Montgomery

Moorehead received six Emmy Award nominations, but was quick to remind interviewers that she had enjoyed a long and distinguished career. Despite her ambivalence, she remained with *Bewitched* until its run ended in 1972. She commented to the *New York Times* in 1974, "I've been in movies and played theater from coast to coast, so I was quite well known before *Bewitched*, and I

don't particularly want to be identified as a witch." Later that year, she said she had enjoyed playing the role enough, but it was not challenging and the show itself was "not breathtaking", although her flamboyant and colorful character appealed to children. She expressed a fondness for the show's star, Elizabeth Montgomery, and said she had enjoyed working with her. Co-star Dick Sargent, who in 1969 replaced the ill Dick York as Samantha's husband Darrin Stephens, had a more difficult relationship with Moorehead, describing her as "a tough old bird."[9]

In fall 1964, Moorehead participated in a 5-minute commercial spot featuring casts of both *Bonanza* and *Bewitched*, announcing the new 1965 Chevrolet line. Moorehead was featured with Dan Blocker extolling the virtues of the new '65 Chevy II.

Moorehead as Endora in *Bewitched*

Later years

In the 1970s, Moorehead's life was increasingly affected by declining health. In 1970, Moorehead appeared as a dying woman who haunts her own house in the early *Night Gallery* episode "Certain Shadows on the Wall". She co-starred with Shelley Winters and Debbie Reynolds in the horror film *What's the Matter with Helen?* (1971) and had the lead role in the low-budget ax murderer film *Dear Dead Delilah* (1972) with Will Geer, her last starring role. She also reprised her role in *Don Juan in Hell* on Broadway and on tour, with an all-star cast that featured Edward Mulhare, Ricardo Montalbán, and Paul Henreid.

Moorehead supplied the voice of the friendly "Goose" in Hanna-Barbera's 1973 adaptation of E. B. White's children's book *Charlotte's Web*.

For the 1973 Broadway adaptation of *Gigi*, Moorehead portrayed Aunt Alicia and performed various songs, including "The Contract" for the original cast recording. She fell ill during the production, resulting in Arlene Francis having to replace her. Moorehead died shortly afterward.

In January 1974, three months before her death, two episodes featuring Moorehead (including the series' premiere episode) aired on the *CBS Radio Mystery Theater*, the popular radio show produced and directed by Himan Brown.

Personal life

Marriages

In 1930, Moorehead married actor John Griffith Lee; they divorced a year after fostering a boy named Sean in 1952. She married actor Robert Gist in 1954, and they divorced in 1958.

Sexuality

Moorehead's sexuality had been the subject of much speculation and dispute.[15] A number of articles that appeared in periodicals in the alternative press have identified her as a lesbian.[16] Paul Lynde, Moorehead's co-star on *Bewitched*, stated: "Well, the whole world knows Agnes was a lesbian – I mean classy as hell, but one of the all-time Hollywood dykes".[17] Journalist Boze Hadleigh reported an incident, also sourced to Lynde, in which, when she caught one of her husbands cheating on her, "Agnes screamed at him that if

he could have a mistress, so could she."[18] In an interview, Moorehead acknowledged her same-sex orientation while she identified a number of other Hollywood actresses who "enjoyed lesbian or bi relationships."[19]

Moorehead's close friend Debbie Reynolds stated categorically that Moorehead was not a lesbian. Reynolds's autobiography mentions the rumor and states it was started "maliciously" by one of Moorehead's husbands during their divorce.[20] Moorehead's longtime friend and producer Paul Gregory concurs in the assessment. Quint Benedetti, Moorehead's longtime employee who was homosexual, also stated that Moorehead was not a lesbian and attributed the story to Paul Lynde's frequent gossiping and rumor-mongering.[21]

Politics

Moorehead rarely spoke publicly about her political beliefs, but she supported both Franklin Delano Roosevelt (she portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt multiple times over the course of her career), and close friend Ronald Reagan for his 1966 run for governor of California.[22]

Death

Moorehead died of uterine cancer on April 30, 1974, in Rochester, Minnesota, aged 73. Her sole immediate survivor was her mother, Mary, who died in 1990 at the age of 106. It is speculated that Moorehead may have developed cancer from radioactive fallout from atmospheric atomic bomb tests[23] while making *The Conqueror* with John Wayne in St. George, Utah. Several production members, as well as Wayne himself, Susan Hayward, Pedro Armendáriz (who died by suicide), and the film's director Dick Powell, later died from cancer and cancer-related illnesses.[24] The cast and crew totaled 220 people. By the end of 1980, as ascertained by *People*, 91 of them had developed some form of cancer, and 46 had died of the disease.[25] Sandra Gould said Moorehead was specifically concerned about being harmed by radiation from *The Conqueror* shoot.[26][27]

Moorehead is entombed in a crypt at Dayton Memorial Park in Dayton, Ohio.[28] In 1994, she was posthumously inducted into the St. Louis Walk of Fame.[29]

Moorehead bequeathed $25,000 to Muskingum College, with instructions to fund one or more "Agnes Moorehead Scholarships". She also left half of her manuscripts to Muskingum with the other half going to the University of Wisconsin. Her family's Ohio farm went to John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, along with her collection of Bibles and biblical scholarship materials.[30][31]

Her mother Mary received all of Moorehead's clothing and jewelry, and Moorehead made provisions to support Mary for the rest of her life. The Beverly Hills home was left to her attorney Franklin Rohner, along with the furnishings and personal property within. Small bequests were made for friends and

domestic staff along with some charitable contributions.[30] In her will, she made no provision for Sean (*né* John Griffith Lee), whom it was alleged she had adopted. In fact, she had fostered Sean only until his 18th birthday, and her will stated that she had "no children, natural or adopted, living or deceased".[32]

Acting credits

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1941	*Citizen Kane*	Mary Kane	
1942	*The Magnificent Ambersons*	Fanny Minafer	
	The Big Street	Violette Shumberg	
1943	*Journey into Fear*	Mrs. Mathews	
	The Youngest Profession	Miss Featherstone	
	Government Girl	Adele – Mrs. Delancey Wright	
	Jane Eyre	Mrs. Reed	
1944	*Since You Went Away*	Mrs. Emily Hawkins	
	Dragon Seed	Third Cousin's Wife	
	The Seventh Cross	Madame Marelli	
	Mrs. Parkington	Baroness Aspasia Conti	
	Tomorrow, the World	Aunt Jesse Frame	
1945	*Keep Your Powder Dry*	Lieut. Colonel Spottiswoode	
	Our Vines Have Tender Grapes	Bruna Jacobson	
	Her Highness and the Bellboy	Countess Zoe	
1947	*Dark Passage*	Madge Rapf	
	The Lost Moment	Juliana Borderau	
1948	*Summer Holiday*	Cousin Lily	
	The Woman in White	Countess Fosco	
	Station West	Mrs. Caslon	
	Johnny Belinda	Aggie MacDonald	
1949	*The Stratton Story*	Ma Stratton	
	The Great Sinner	Emma Getzel	
	Without Honor	Katherine Williams	
1950	*Caged*	Ruth Benton	
	Captain Blackjack	Mrs. Emily Birk	
1951	*Fourteen Hours*	Christine HIll Cosick	
	Adventures of Captain Fabian	Aunt Jezebel	

	Show Boat	Parthy Hawks	
	The Blue Veil	Mrs. Palfrey	
1952	*The Blazing Forest*	Jessie Crain	
	The Story of Three Loves	Aunt Lydia	Segment: "The Jealous Lover"
1953	*Scandal at Scourie*	Sister Josephine	
	Main Street to Broadway	Mildred Waterbury	
	Those Redheads From Seattle	Mrs. Edmonds	
1954	*Magnificent Obsession*	Nancy Ashford	
	Untamed	Aggie	
1955	*The Left Hand of God*	Beryl Sigman	
	All That Heaven Allows	Sara Warren	
	The Conqueror	Hunlun	
1956	*Meet Me in Las Vegas*	Miss Hattie	
	The Swan	Queen Maria Dominika	
	The Revolt of Mamie Stover	Bertha Parchman	
	Pardners	Mrs. Matilda Kingsley	
	The Opposite Sex	Countess de Brion	
	The True Story of Jesse James	Mrs. Samuel	
1957	*Jeanne Eagels*	Nellie Neilson	
	Raintree County	Ellen Shawnessy	
	The Story of Mankind	Queen Elizabeth I	
1958	*The Tempest*	Vassilissa Mironova	
1959	*Night of the Quarter Moon*	Cornelia Nelson	
	The Bat	Cornelia van Gorder	
1960	*Pollyanna*	Mrs. Snow	
1961	*Twenty Plus Two*	Mrs. Eleanor Delaney	
	Bachelor in Paradise	Judge Peterson	
1962	*Jessica*	Maria Lombardo	
	How the West Was Won	Rebecca Prescott	
1963	*Who's Minding the Store?*	Mrs. Phoebe Tuttle	
1964	*Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte*	Velma Cruther	
1966	*The Singing Nun*	Sister Cluny	
1969	*The Ballad of Andy Crocker*	Lisa's Mother	
1971	*What's the Matter with Helen?*	Sister Alma	
1972	*Dear Dead Delilah*	Delilah Charles	
1973	*Charlotte's Web*	The Goose	Voice

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1952	*Poor Mr. Campbell*	Adrice Campbell	Television movie
1953	*The Revlon Mirror Theater*	Martha Adams	Episode: "Lullaby"
1955	*The Colgate Comedy Hour*	Aunt Minnie	Episode: "Roberta"
1956	*Matinee Theatre*	Mrs. Barnes	Episode: "reybeards and Witches"
	Studio 57	Mrs. Tolliver	Episode: "Teacher"
1957	*Climax!*	Irene	Episode: "Locked in Fear"
	Wagon Train	Mary Halstead	Episode: "The Mary Halstead Story"
1958	*The DuPont Show of the Month*	Madame Defarge	Episode: "A Tale of Two Cities"
	Playhouse 90	Rose Ganun	Episode: "The Dungeon"
	Suspicion	Katherine Searles	Episode: "The Protege"
1959	*G.E. True Theatre*	Ana Konrad Bethlen	Episode: "Deed of Mercy"
	Alcoa Theatre	Mrs. Adams	Episode: "Man of His House"
	The Rebel	Mrs. Martha Lassiter	Episode: "In Memoriam"
1960	*Startime*	Carmen Lynch	Episode: "Closed Set"
	The Millionaire	Katherine Boland	Episode: "Millionaire Katherine Boland"
	The Chevy Mystery Show	Elizabeth Marshall	Episode: "Trial by Fury"
	Adventures in Paradise	Jikiri	Episode: "The Krismen"
	Rawhide	Sister Frances	Episode: "Incident at Poco Tiempo"
	Shirley Temple's Storybook	Hepzibah Pyncheon Mombi the Witch Witch	3 episodes
	The Rifleman	Alberta 'Bertie' Hoakam	Episode: "Miss Bertie" season 3, episode 14
1961	*The Twilight Zone*	Woman	Episode: "The Invaders"
	My Sister Eileen	Aunt Harriet	2 episodes
1963–1965	*Burke's Law*	Pauline Moss Dona Ynez Ortega y Esteban Liz Haggerty	2 episodes
1964	*Channing*	Professor Amelia Webster	Episode: "Freedom Is a Lovesome Thing God Wot"
	The Greatest Show on Earth	Millie	Episode: "This Train Don't Stop Till It Gets There"
1964–1972	*Bewitched*	Endora	146 episodes; Main role
1966	*The Lone Ranger*	Black Widow	Episode: "The Trickster/Crack of Doom/The Human Dynamo"
1966	*Password*	Herself	Game Show Contestant / Celebrity Guest Star

1967	*The Wild Wild West*	Emma Valentine	Episode: "The Night of the Vicious Valentine"
	Custer	Watoma	Episode: "Spirit Woman"
1969	*Lancer*	Mrs. Normile	Episode: "A Person Unknown"
	The Red Skelton Show	Bertha Bluenose	Episode: "He Wanted to Be a Square Shooter But He Found That his Barrel was Round"
1970	*Barefoot in the Park*	Mrs. Wilson	Episode: "Pilot"
	The Virginian	Emma Garvey	Episode: "Gun Quest"
1971	*Night Gallery*	Emma Brigham	2 episodes
	Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color	Mrs. Pringle	Episode: "Strange Monster of Strawberry Cove"
	Love, American Style	Mrs. Cooper	Segment: "Love and the Particular Girl"
1971	*Marriage: Year One*	Grandma Duden	Television movie
	Suddenly Single	Marlene	Television movie
	The Strange Monster of Strawberry Cove	Mrs. Pringle	Television movie
1972	*Marcus Welby, M.D.*	Mrs. Ramsey	Episode: "He Could Sell Iceboxes to Eskimos"
	Rolling Man	Grandmother	Television movie
	Night of Terror	Bronsky	Television movie
1973	*Frankenstein: The True Story*	Mrs. Blair	Television movie
1974	*Rex Harrison Presents Stories of Love*	Hercules's Wife	Television movie

Theater

Moorehead began appearing on stage during her training at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She appeared in seven productions as a student. She continued acting in the theater throughout her career until just a few months before her death.[33]

Year	Play	Role
1928	*Courage*	Understudy
1929	*Soldiers and Women*	Understudy
1929	*Scarlet Pages*	Company
1929	*Candle Light*	Company
1934	*All the King's Horses*	Company
1951	*Don Juan In Hell*	Doña Ana. [a]
1954	*An Evening with Agnes Moorehead*	Herself [b]
1957	*The Rivalry*	Mrs. Stephen A. Douglas. Moorehead toured with the play but dropped out before its New York debut.
1959	*The Pink Jungle*	Eleanor West
1962	*Prescription: Murder*	Claire Fleming
1962	*Lord Prego*	Miss Swanson
1963	*High Spirits*	Madame Arcati
1973	*Gigi*	Aunt Alicia

Radio

Moorehead appeared on hundreds of individual broadcasts across a radio career that spanned from 1926 to her final two appearances, on *CBS Radio Mystery Theater* in 1974.[34]

Year	Program	Role
1929–1930	*Believe It or Not*	Ensemble
1930–1933	*Sherlock Holmes*	Ensemble
1931	*The Ben Bernie Show*	Ensemble
1932–1933	*Mysteries In Paris*	Nana
1933–1934	*Evenings In Paris*	Anna
1933–1936	*The Armour Hour*	Ensemble
1934	*The Gumps*	Min
1934–1935	*Heartthrobs of the Hills*	Ensemble
1935–1937	*Dot and Will*	Rose
1935–1936	*The New Penny*	
1936	*Way Down East*	
1936–1938	*The March of Time*	Ensemble / Eleanor Roosevelt.
1937	*Terry and the Pirates*	The Dragon Lady
1937–1939	*The Shadow*	Margo Lane
1938	*The Mercury Theatre on the Air*	Ensemble
1938	*The Campbell Playhouse*	Ensemble
1938–1941	*Cavalcade of America*	Ensemble
1939–1940	*Brenda Curtis*	Brenda's mother
1939–1940	*The Aldrich Family*	Mrs. Brown
1940	*The Adventures of Superman*	Lara
1941–1942	*Bringing Up Father*	Maggie
1941–1942	*Bulldog Drummond*	Ensemble
1942–1949	*Mayor of the Town*	Marilly
1942–1960	*Suspense*	Mrs. Elbert Stevenson[c]
1974	*CBS Radio Mystery Theater*	Ada Canby, Lorna Kitteridge

Awards and nominations

Year	Award	Category	Nominated work	Result
1942	Academy Award	Best Supporting Actress	*The Magnificent Ambersons*	Nominated
	New York Film Critics Circle	Best Actress		Won
1944	Academy Award	Best Supporting Actress	*Mrs. Parkington*	Nominated
	Golden Globe Award	Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress – Motion Picture		Won
1948	Academy Award	Best Supporting Actress	*Johnny Belinda*	Nominated
1964	Academy Awards	Best Supporting Actress	*Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte*	Nominated
	Golden Globe Award	Best Supporting Actress		Won

1966	Primetime Emmy Awards	Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series	*Bewitched*	Nominated
1967		Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series		Nominated
1968		Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series		Nominated
1969				Nominated
1970				Nominated
1971				Nominated
1967		Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series	*The Wild Wild West*	Won

Notes

a. Moorehead originated the role in a national tour which culminated in a sold-out appearance at Carnegie Hall. Moorehead engaged in six tours of the production between 1951 and 1954 and appeared in a 1973 revival at the Palace Theatre.

b. Moorehead toured nationally in this one-woman show on and off for over 20 years. It became best known under the name *The Fabulous Redhead* and in the mid-1960s as *Come Closer, I'll Give You an Earful*.

c. Moorehead's appearances on *Suspense* were so numerous that she became known as "The First Lady of *Suspense*". Her most noted role was as Mrs. Elbert Stevenson in "Sorry, Wrong Number". She first performed the role on May 25, 1943, and reprised it on eight occasions through her last appearance on the program in 1960.

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External links

- Agnes Moorehead (https://www.ibdb.com/broadway-cast-staff/68354) at the Internet Broadway Database
- Agnes Moorehead (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001547/) at IMDb
- Agnes Moorehead (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/1409) at Find a Grave
- Guide to over 100,000 Moorehead documents spanning 1923–1974 (http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/wiarchives.uw-whs-us0161an) at the Wisconsin Historical Society
- Georgia Johnstone papers regarding Agnes Moorehead, 1930–1974 (http://archives.nypl.org/the/21679), held by the Billy Rose Theatre Division, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
- Interview with biographer Charles Tranberg from Harpies Bizarre (http://www.harpiesbizarre.com/tranberg_interview.htm)
- Listen to – Suspense 1951-02-15 Agnes Moorehead – The Death Parade (http://jack_benny.podomatic.com/entry/2011-02-15T13_41_01-08_00) with new introduction.
- Listen to – The CBS Radio Mystery Theater 1974-01-06 The Old Ones Are Hard To Kill starring Agnes Moorehead. (https://archive.org/download/otr_cbsradiomysterytheater/CBSRMT740106-000132-TheOldOnesAreHardtoKill.mp3)

- Agnes Moorehead (http://wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM3769) as a child circa 1904(Wisconsin Historical Society)
- Agnes Moorehead (http://wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM4091) as a child wearing white dress 1903(Wisconsin Historical Society)

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